

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI: _____

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 17th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 17 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 18)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off west side of Foots Road, MD/T-300, PA

CITY, TOWN

Octoraro

☒ VICINITY OFCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MD: 1 / PA: 5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Cecil / PA: Chester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED		<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED		<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS		<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED		<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED		<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION N/A
(see surrounding property ownership list)COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Cecil County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

CE-1024 entered 3/80

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 17(18) marks Mason and Dixon's 17th mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their West Line. It is an original milestone of 1766, unaltered and in good condition, standing about 1' above ground at its original site preliminarily surveyed in 1765, resurveyed and reset in 1902.

The area here is rural, much of it downhill woodlands sloping/north and westward toward the winding Octoraro Creek. The site is about 1 mile north-northeast of the scattered settlement of Octoraro; about 1 mile due east of the Boy Scouts of America Camp Horseshoe; about 1700' north of the intersection of Ridge and Foots roads; about 500' west of Foots Road, MD/T-300, PA, in back of (west-northwest of) Roy and Sue Thompson's new brick home. It is in a small clearing just inside the south edge of a deciduous woods, at the base of a huge tree; cannot be seen from any road, nor easily from nearby.

The monument, originally set to stand about 3' above ground, was reset at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary to stand about 1½' high and is now about 10" high. It is firmly in place, and protected by the seclusion of the site. As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments: it is an embellished, squared oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, and was quarried and carved in England. No. 17(18) still measures about 12" square; the letters P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and M on the south (Maryland) side are clear and intact; most of the fluting and margins remain but are weatherworn; all edges and corners are chipped, especially the southwest corner; and the top planes are discernible but weathered.

(see Thematic Group NR nomination form for descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION		
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE		
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE		
— 1600-1699	— ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION		
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		— INVENTION			boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1766 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are 24 original crownstones and 111 milestones of 1766-67 still standing along Mason and Dixon's West Line, set at mile intervals through the 132nd mile, and including 12 added in 1902 beyond that point (3 crownstones, 9 milestones) set at irregular intervals. Milestone No. 17(18) is primarily significant as one of this original series, which represents a boundary of national and state importance, not only for its symbolism at the time of the Civil War, but also for its innovative survey methods leading to the settlement of longstanding provincial boundary disputes a century earlier. Individually, and as one of 20 (of the original 24) monuments remaining within the present Cecil/Chester and Lancaster county boundary, it is also significant locally as one of the diminishing number of objects and structures visually identifiable with our colonial and Civil War heritage.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

UTM: 18.40640.439720

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Cecil

STATE Pennsylvania

COUNTY Chester

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey

DATE 4/8/80 (site surveyed by Jean Ewing)

STREET & NUMBER 14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE 301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN Phoenix

STATE Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

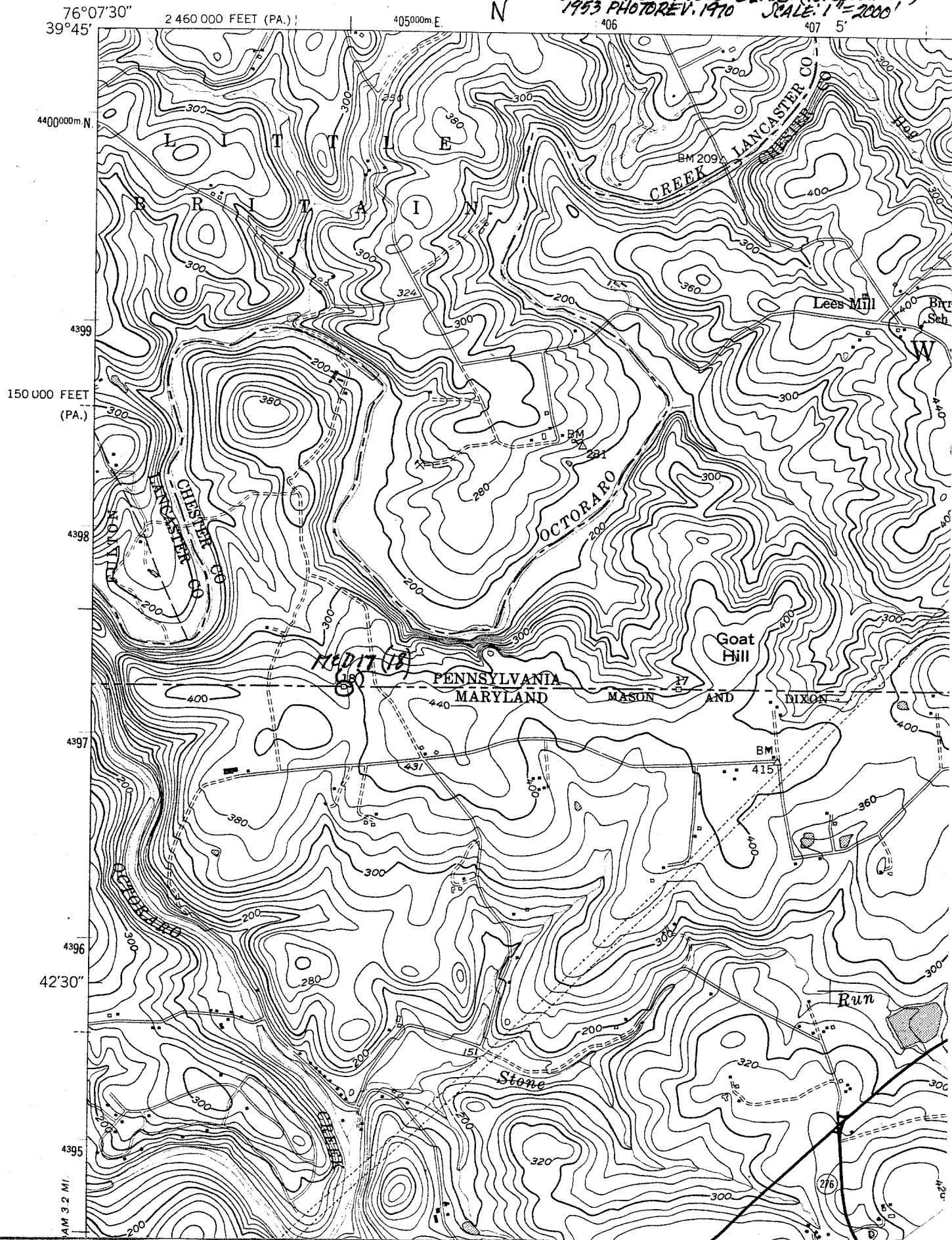
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

57031 SW
(WAKEFIELD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CE-1024
MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 17 (18)

RISEING SUN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTOREV. 1970 SCALE: 1" = 2000'





CE-1024

Mason & Dixon west line marker # 17 (18)

SE corner (14/-)

Jean
Ewing photo 6/80 (Neg 19)



CE-1024

Mason & Dixon west line marker #17 (18)

NW corner (P/-)

Juan
F. wing photo 6/80 (Neg 20)



CE-1024

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 17 (18)

VIEW LOOKING WEST TOWARD STONE & SETTING

PHOTO: STEPHANIE YATSEVITCH 5/1/80 (NEG #8)